Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-07 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /135 W ------ 109585

R 031700Z MAR 76 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8505 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 1600

PASS STR FOR MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: GROUP OF 77 - "DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF

ACTION"

REF: (A) GENEVA 1336, (B) GENEVA 1540

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TSB CHAIRMAN, EC TSG REP, AND PAK AMB, TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR PRIVATE INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN EC DEL HEADED BY MEYNELL AND TAK REPS ON OR ABOUT MAR 8 IN GENEVA IN EFFORT FIND WAY OUT OF EC-PAK IMPASSE ON PHASE-OUT QUESTION (REF A). INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT EC HAS FINALLY UNDERSTOOD SERIOUSNESS OF EC-PAK PHASE-OUT DISPUTE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO PAK INITIATIVE IN GROUP 77'S "PROGRAM OF ACTION." PAK AMB HERE APPARENTLY HAS ALSO RECOGNIZED VALIDITY U.S. CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF PAK INITIATIVE IN MANILA EXPRESSED TO HIM BY U.S. REP IN FEB 26 MEETING (REF B). PAK AMB HAS SUGGESTED TO U.S. REP CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT U.S. SHOULD INFORM GOP AT HIGH LEVEL IN ISLAMABAD OF OUR CONCERN; POINTING OUT TO GOP ACTUAL BENEFITS IN

TERMS INCREASED MARKET ACCESS WHICH MFA HAS ALREADY YIELDED TO PAKISTAN AND OTHER LDC'S AND, AT SAME TIME, UNDERLINING THE PROBABLY CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO EXTEND MFA. U.S. REP FULLY SUPPORTS THIS SUGGESTION BUT WOULD SUGGEST THAT SUCH APPROACH SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER EC-PAK INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ARE CONCLUDED HERE AND RESULTS KNOWN.

2. U.S. REP HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT INDIA HAS AGREED CONSULT WITH EC ON PHASE-OUT QUESTION UNDER THE GENERAL CONSULTATIVE CLAUSE IN EC-PAK BILATERAL IN BRUSSELS ON MAR 22. WHILE INDIA HAS ALSO ADVISED TSB

THAT GOI WAS NOT INFORMED OF EC'S "PHASE-OUT" PLANS UNTIL AFTER AGREEMENT SIGNED, THEY MORE RELAXED THAN PAKS PROBABLY DUE FACT THEY HAVE MUCH SMALLER TRADE INTEREST AND, ALSO, HAD NOT INFORMED THEIR TRADE (AS DID GOP) THAT ALL ITEMS NOT COVERED IN BILATERAL COULD BE FREELY EXPORTED TO EC. INDIAN AMB CHADHA THIS WEEK INFORMED TSB THAT HE WOULD NOT PRESS FOR TSB CONSIDERATION OF EC-INDIA PHASE-OUT PENDING OUTCOME MAR 22 CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS.

- 3. WHILE THERE IS NO WAY PREDICTING OUTCOME ANY TRANSACTION IN WHICH MEYNELL IS INVOLVED, LOCAL EC REPS SEEM CONFIDENT THAT EC WILL BE ABLE RESOLVE PHASE-OUT PROBLEMS BILATERALLY WITH PAKISTAN AND INDIA AND, HOPEFULLY, WITH KOREA AND HONG KONG. IF THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOT RESOLVED, WE CAN EXPECT STIFF GROUP 77 OPPOSITION AT UNCTAD IV ANY EFFORTS AMELIORATE OR SOFTEN GROUP'S POSITION ON FUTURE OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS "SUCH AS MFA."
- 4. BEFORE DEPARTURE GATT DIR GEN LONG MAR 2 ON VISIT PAKISTAN, U.S. REP CONVEYED TO DIR GEN THROUGH PATTERSON BACKGROUND TO PAK MANILA INITIATIVE. LONG IS CONCERNED OVER THIS PROBLEM AND, ACCORDING TO PATTERSON, WILL DISCUSS IT WITH PAK OFFICIALS DURING VISIT.
- 5. U.S. REP IS ALSO IFORMED THAT EC'S SIR CHRISTOPHER CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SOAMES WILL VISIT PAKISTAN LAST WEEK IN MARCH (IMMEDIATE-LY FOLLOWING LONG BISIT). IT OCCURS TO U.S. REP THAT, IN EVENT EC PAK MAR 8 TALKS YIELD NO RESULT, U.S. SHOULD CONSIDER APPROACH TO SOAMES EXPRESSING U.S. CONCERN (RELATED TO FUTURE OF MFA) OVER THIS DC-LDC IRRITANT AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT SOAMES MIGHT FIND A SOLUTION AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL. SINCE SUCH A "POLITICAL" SOLUTION WOULD RELIEVE PAK COMMERCE PERM SEC NAIK OF HIS ACUTE PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT OVER PRESS STATEMENT HE ISSUED FOLLOWING EC-PAK NEGOTIATIONS, IT MIGHT REPRESENT A WAY OUT FOR

BOTH SIDES. U.S. REP RECOGNIZES DELICACY OF SUCH U.S. DEMARCHE IN BRUSSELS BUT, IN LIGHT IMPLICATIONS DETERIORATING EC-LDC TEXTILE RELATIONS HAVE FOR EXTENSION OF MFA, SUCH AN APPROACH APPEARS WARRANT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

6. U.S. REP WILL REPORT GENEVA DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. DALE

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Message Attributes

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